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B/ IRW 2626



PATENT
450108-3249.3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

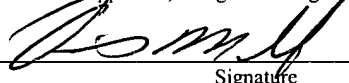
Applicants : Tetsujiro KONDO et al. Notice of Allowance
Dated: 10/18/2004
Serial No. : 10/005,029 Confirmation No. 1663
Filed : December 3, 2001
For : PICTURE ENCODING APPARATUS AND METHOD
Examiner : Mark E. Wallerson
Art Unit : 2626

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151

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Dennis M. Smid, Reg. No. 34,930

Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative



Signature

November 17, 2004

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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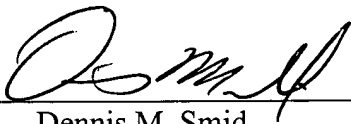
Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed October 18, 2004. To the extent the Examiner's

Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Dennis M. Smid
Reg. No. 34,930
(212) 588-0800